

For Immediate Release
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Revised Purchasing Policies Approved by Board

The following items came before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors during their April 30th meeting:

- A working group has found that the new procurement policies adopted by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors have greatly improved and strengthened the county's procurement process. The Board's new policies have resulted in increased competition in all county departments, greater exposure of county procurements to the Board and the public, greater departmental accountability, and improved internal controls. Last year, as a result of these accomplishments, the Purchasing Department was presented with the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute. Recognizing this success, the Board voted today to further refine procurement policies in order to make them more efficient for the departments while maintaining sufficient controls. The changes in the policies include new requirements for the purchase of fixed assets and the exemption of some difficult to bid commodities from competitive requirements.

"I am pleased with the vast improvements that the recently adopted policies have made to the procurement process in San Bernardino County," said Board Chairman Fred Aguiar. "By making a few minor additional changes, the process will continue to promote competition and accountability while simultaneously reducing the burden of purchasing for county departments."

- The Board awarded a \$208,625 contract to Rockwell Automation for the replacement of control equipment at the Foothill Law & Justice Center. The equipment is used to open and close jail slider doors during the movement of prisoners housed at the Justice Center. The equipment, which uses seventeen-year old technology, has completely failed and replacement parts are no longer available.

"It is important that this equipment be replaced as quickly as possible to ensure that public safety at the Justice Center will not be compromised," stated Supervisor Aguiar.

- The Board established a new position of Assistant Public Defender. The position was approved after an independent audit of the Public Defender's Office confirmed the need for additional resources in order to address operational deficiencies in the law offices of the Public Defender.

"It's clear that the Public Defender's Office is in need of additional resources," commented Aguiar. "This new position will help to meet that need until we can fully consider additional staffing for the office during our upcoming budget process."

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